

ARC-OVER

April - May, 2019 EDITION

Dual Band Antennas

It is seldom that I will tout one brand of antenna over another... There are so many out there of exceptional quality... Earlier this year a windstorm came crashing over the top of Mt. Bullion... It Trashed one of the 1.2 Antennas at W6HHD D-Star repeater installation in the Aircall Building... In addition it devoured a Comet Dual Band antenna on the K6IXA-12 Winlink RMS Gateway... Looking for the biggest bang for the buck I stumbled across the TRAM-1481 dual band antenna... Typical price seemed to be around \$159 + or- a couple of bucks... Having experienced procuring amateur related equipment from big box store locations who one would not suspect I started looking around... For example I had previously acquired some 12 volt batteries from Walmart at about half of what the normal sources wanted... To that end I found I could order the antenna from Home Depot, pick it up at the local Merced store for \$103... After receiving the Antenna with further investigation, I found it was available at Walmart with store pickup for \$72.59... So it pays to check out the non traditional big box stores for your amateur related needs.

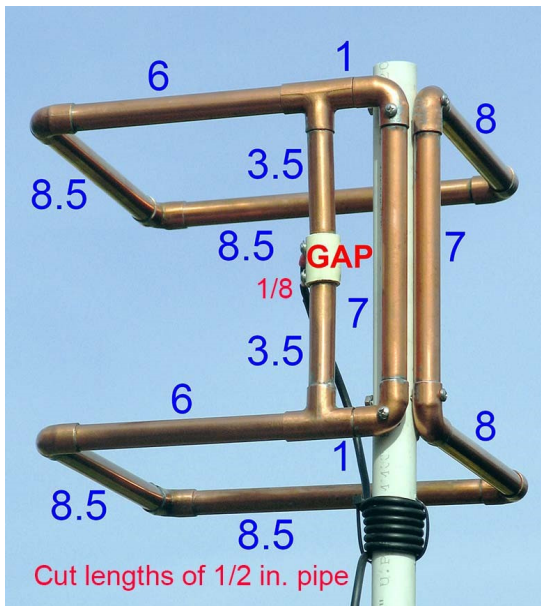
The Tram corporation was a US company that apparently migrated its Manufacturing facility to China... The only precautionary bit of information I found was to make sure the section hardware was tight and secure... Also make sure it is dead on water proof... The adjacent picture shows the extent the guys went to waterproofing when installing the antenna... Reflected power on VHF and UHF is negligible... Gain of 8.3 Vhf and 11.7 Uhf gives a very good bang for the buck, especially for The Walmart price of \$72.59... Since my acquisition I have noticed numerous other sales outlets have jumped on the competitive band wagon... The REAL scary part is that Dick Decker K6SUU, who normally adapts the attitude "They're gonna have to pay me to use it" is even considering purchase of one... There have been a couple of recent acquisitions by local hams who are well pleased with it's performance... Well worth looking at..
Editor K6IXA



More Antennas

Back in the 60's when repeaters were few and far between one of the more notable antenna arrays for two meters was a pair of skeleton slot yagi's... For those in the Los Angeles area intent of spanning the gap of ocean to San Diego it was one of the most popular antenna configuration in use, capable of crossing the vast expanse of water.

An article in a recent QST caught my attention where a ham had built a vhf cube antenna from 1/2 inch copper tubing which was the equivalent to a Skeleton Slot dual "J" Pole antenna.. Close examination of the article indicated an error in his dimensions. I looked him up and he confirmed the QST editorial folks had made a foo-pah and sent me off to a corrected site on the ARRL web page. The completed antenna is pictured below... The swr is negligible and will be the replacement antenna for the MAR5 digi-peater on Big Bullion... Just trying to coordinate with one of our tower climbers to complete the job...



K6IXA Editor

**Meeting of the Turlock Amateur Radio Club
May 14, 2019 @ 7PM
Salvation Army Facility, 893 Lander Ave, Turlock**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Bambi Schmidt (KI6YQL) with 25 members and guests in attendance.

Vice President's Report:

Vice President Dick Decker (K6SUU) – tonight's program will be Dick and Spencer on how to make APRS contact with the ISS (International Space Station). Spencer will review the soundcard modem program DIREWOLF.

Membership Chairman's Report:

Ed Darrah (K7ERD) not present. No report.

Treasurer's Report:

No report.

Secretary's Report:

Printed copies of the April meeting were distributed. President Bambi Schmidt (KI6YQL) entertained a motion that the minutes be accepted as printed. Motion by Mike Smith (KG6VFL) with second by Spencer Boyd (KJ6ART). Motion carried.

Repeater Chairman's Report:

Nothing to report.

ArcOver Publisher's Report:

No report.

Old Business:

President Bambi Schmidt (KI6YQL) reminded the membership that the June meeting will be the annual ice cream social and the July meeting will be the club pot luck. Both will be held at the Salvation Army facility.

New Business:

No new business.

Meeting adjourned by President Bambi Schmidt (KI6YQL) at 7:07pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Greg Back (WA6LGS).

Program: very interesting program tonight by Dick and Spencer on making contact with the ISS via APRS and using the DIREWOLF software modem and Signalink external soundcard.

WHO DAT?

Dean Larson, W6HAB in Denver CO sent me the below picture... With the caption, who is the guy in the Blue & White Shirt... I printed it out and showed it to Ivy, who promptly asked when did I attend this guys graduation... Fooled her at least... It has often been said we all have our double out there somewhere... Here's another poor buggar who is afflicted by the same nemesis... I looked him up, had a chat, sent him this pix plus one of myself of me sitting on the Powered Parachute and promptly heard NOTHING... OH Well... In my younger days I experienced a similar situation when I encountered a definite look alike shoe salesman in the Modesto to Sears store 10th & J in Modesto. The kids came running to Ivy, MOM MOM there's a guy in the shoe department who looks JUST like "DAD"... Checking it out he and I spent the next several minuets sneaking peeks at each other around the pillars in the shoe department... You have a look alike out there somewhere, sent me the picture along



with a current one and we will issue a challenge to the membership as to which is the real thing, The REAL Butter or Near Butter...

Anyone correctly identifying this chap and where he lives will win a FREE Years Membership to TARC...

Then it could really be me and this whole thing is a spoof just to fill up a page in the ARCOVER ;-)

Send Your Pictures...

Forget it Spence you do NOT look like Kirk Douglas!

Editor K6IXA

BULLION PICTURES

Here is a collage of pictures taken on the last visit to Mt Bullion... Several of you will most likely never have the opportunity to visit the repeater site. So we have taken this moment in time to share the hill top with you...



I told you he was no Kirk Douglas
His sidekick is Rich W6ABJ not Chester of
Gunsmoke



TARC Repeater Building
& Antenna Towers



Antenna Towers at the Sayre Building
Home of the K6IXA 443.075 Repeater-
Freq agile Remote Base
& the K6IXA-12 Winlink RMS Gateway



AirCall Building Home of the W6HHD D-Star
System and TARC Uhf & Vhf DMR Repeaters
The White Box contains the 441.550 KJ6ART
Repeater as well as various others



**SOMEWHERE AN OSHA MANUAL
JUST BURST INTO FLAMES**